

CHALLENGE TO HEDONISM

75

Trade Unionism taking the notes, studying the documents,
making the interviews, which, for later books, were largely
prepared by secretaries Certainly no picture of their
life at this, or any other period, can begin to be truthful
which does not put work—hard, unremitting, regular,
sustained and often dull—in the forefront No work of
their kind but includes great stretches of sheer drudgery
Companionship sweetened this, but it was there, they
faced it, and carried it through, day after day, week after
week, year after year The structures that they reared
may be criticised from many points of view, never from
that of shoddiness

Work occupied every morning In any work jointly
done, there is an element of mystery, and perhaps the
question "How exactly do you divide it?" is one that
cannot be answered least of all when between joint workers
there is a complete sympathy But, on a normal morning,
after their secretary had left them, they would, together,
read the notes of interviews and visits, and the precis of
documents, already made, made either by one of them-
selves or by the secretary They read, and discussed
them At a certain stage, her eyes would light up She
would spring to her feet and pace up and down, waving
her cigarette "That implies " She would then start
off, on a chain of argument, he swiftly writing the while,
using his matchless power of finding appropriate and
exactly fitting words for what she was

sketching out in
broad and vivid outline Any idea or general
view thus
struck out by either was subjected to an
intensive mutual
testing Then, after thoroughly thrashing it
out together,
they took it to be tried on others

Among those others, Bernard Shaw and
Graham Wallas
came first Far from breaking up any of his
old friend-
ships, Mrs Webb accepted them, and, in the
Fabian
Quartette, Sydney Olivier having gone to
Jamaica, she